

A NEW COURT-HOUSE

THE HANDSOME NEW STRUCTURE
DIRECTED FOR JASPER COUNTY.

First Court-House in the County—
The Swamp Lands Scandal—
Horse Thieves Numerous
in the Early Days.

(Special Correspondence Indianapolis News.)
Hennelster, Ind., April 8.—Jasper county has a court-house—a fine, new one, that has been accepted by the county and is ready for use. It is of medium size and remarkably handsome in its furnishings. The contract price of the court-house was \$30,000 and the cost up to date is about \$10,000. In some parts of the county people are grumbling, but that is all that it will amount to. The bids were opened in July, 1895, and the usual injunction proceedings were begun to prevent the letting of the contract, but they were suddenly stopped, for what reason no one here seems to know. The contract was made with appropriate ceremonies. The county issued \$23,130 in bonds. Of these \$20,000 was due July 1, 1899, and the balance in July, 1901. The building for the court-house was erected, and the county got a premium of \$15,500, which, some of the citizens declare, is considerable of a compliment to the standing of this county.

In the erection of a public building there is always more or less talk, and if one-half the rumors floating about concerning "wholes" and "treasures" in the court-house building is true, the grand jury could do better than indicting men for giving champagne to their friends or for operating grab-bags and guessing contests at church fairs. There is talk about the most secret of the grand jury there will be an investigation of the manner of the purchase of a clock and bell. Men who understand their business say the court-house here is worth all it cost, even if it has cost almost double the contract price. Certain it is that there are a good many citizens who are trying to get into the building as office-holders.

The First Court-House.
Some of the old-timers here compare this fine building with the rude structure that was first used in this county as a temple of justice. The first court-house was a room 18 feet square, and the next was a building 21 by 36 feet. In 1833 the county commissioners made some plans for a new building, but they were ordered by the board of commissioners to purchase 100,000 bricks. The contract was finally let to Benjamin Henkle, and after a great deal of trouble he finished the building in 1836. In 1864 the court-house was burned. A man who lived here then says there is no question but it was destroyed by an incendiary, who had been waiting for wanting the records of the county obliterated. The walls were left standing, and from them the records were taken. This stood service until the present edifice was built.

Probably the most noted of public scandals in the history of the State was over the swamp lands of Jasper county. In the early history of the county the river margins were impassable marshes, and it was not until the late nineteenth century that the swamp lands were reclaimed. The act of Congress of September 20, 1850, the swamp or over-overflowed lands in the State, belonging to the United States, were granted to the State of Indiana on the condition that they should be drained and rendered fit for agricultural purposes. By the provisions of the second section of that act it was made the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to transmit to the Governor of the State, on his request, a list of plots of the swamp lands, previously ascertained, together with a vesting title in the State subject to the disposal of the Legislature, with the express proviso that the proceeds of the lands, whether from sale or direct appropriation in kind, should be applied exclusively, as necessary, to the reclaiming of the lands.

The amount of swamp lands granted to the State was 1,233,635 acres. The Governor appointed swamp land commissioners in every county owning swamp lands, and in several counties the actions of these officials became so notorious that the Indiana Legislature investigated them. The investigation in Jasper county showed that the commissioners had not only aided in great frauds on the swamp land funds, but were participants in the profits arising from these frauds. For instance, one year the entire work for ditching was done by one man at 20 cents a cubic yard, though at the same time letting there were bidders as low as 10 cents a yard. The ditching contractor for that year was never finished according to the plans and specifications, but the contractor was paid nearly \$40,000.

Subsequent Speculation.
In 1858 the Auditor of State directed the auditor of Jasper county to withhold from sale a large amount of swamp lands designated by him. A spirit of speculation in the land market was then formed, and in a short time there were formed four separate companies, who selected, and actually obtained, by the complicity of the swamp land commissioners, 15,000 acres of the best lands vacant in the county. The deeds to these lands were procured from the officers of the State without a shadow of law.

The swamp land act of 1857 required that those fraudulent conveyances should be returned and canceled when the work was not completed, but provided that the loose contracts on which they had been obtained might be ratified and confirmed by the swamp land commissioner, and that the contractors might file with the county auditor of Jasper county a certificate by them to be taken in payment for ditching. The sale of these selected lands was then prohibited by the county officers till the completion of the work, and the contract for the payment of which they were filed; and it was directed that 75 per cent, on the estimates of the work done should be paid to the contractor, and at any time, by depositing \$125 an acre with the county treasurer, for the whole or any part of the lands in his hands, take out certificates and procure patents for them, and that the money so paid into the county treasury should then be retained to be paid to the contractor at the rate of 75 per cent, of estimates of work done, until the contract was completed, when all should be repaid.

Under this law the swamp land commissioner of Jasper county confirmed all of the old contracts at 20 cents a cubic yard, which had been let at from 10 cents to 15 cents a cubic yard, and the contractors were permitted to file lists of

INSULTS FOR AMERICANS

WHO TOOK PROVISIONS TO THE
STARVING RECONCENTRATEDS.

Bitter Feeling Manifested Toward
Them at Matanzas—Their Lives
Threatened—The Suffering
and Starving People.

One Hundred Thousand Due.

Not one-half the ditching was ever done by the original contractors. From estimates of the whole amount of these contracts it is estimated that more than \$100,000 of money deposited with him by contractors for lands obtained by them, but he did not pay over a single cent. At the legislative investigation it was shown that the county treasurer, without the shadow of law or authority, had issued in the names of his brother and others certificates of purchase for lands previously filed for by contractors, and on these fraudulent certificates payments were made, and that the contractors whose lands were thus obtained in order to avoid expensive and troublesome litigation, compromised with the county treasurer's brother, allowing him to issue \$500 acre certificates for lands of \$14,000. He was also sued on his official bond to recover \$1,000 county revenue.

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"Bandits of the Prairie."
In its early history Jasper county bore an unenviable reputation. The insupportable character of the swamp lands along the Kanawake river afforded a safe retreat for a class of criminals who were early known to the people of the State as "bandits of the prairie," and while their depredations were not committed so much on the people as on the property, they were a constant source of annoyance to the people of the county, and gained for the county a reputation for being the headquarters for horse-thieves.

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The bandits were known to be desperate adepts in the use of weapons and in the art of horse-stealing and counterfeiting. Their plan of operation was to take the light horses of Illinois to Indiana and then to the market in the State of Ohio. They were a constant source of annoyance to the people of the county, and gained for the county a reputation for being the headquarters for horse-thieves.

Counterfeiting was carried on to a considerable extent within the limits of this county. The counterfeiters were a constant source of annoyance to the people of the county, and gained for the county a reputation for being the headquarters for horse-thieves.

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DEATH FOR GOLD-SEEKERS

Caught by a Snowslide on the
Chilkoot Trail.

Victims of the Slide—The
Cause of the Disaster—The
Rescue Efforts—The
Fate of the Victims.

Thousands of people were camped in the vicinity of the accident at the time, and were soon on the scene, rendering aid to the victims.

A dispatch from Seattle, April 8, says that about noon to-day on the Chilkoot trail, between the Scales and Stone House, many men met death, and a large number of others were injured, more or less seriously in a snowslide. The dead were crushed under an avalanche of snow and ice which came down from the trail midway between the Scales and Stone House.

Thousands of people were camped in the vicinity of the accident at the time, and were soon on the scene, rendering aid to the victims. The rescue efforts were hampered by the weather, which was unpropitious for travel, was thronged with wayfarers. The last vestige of the trail in the vicinity was wiped out by the avalanche, and where it lay is now a mountain of snow and ice, under which are many dead bodies that cannot be recovered for days to come.

A later dispatch, dated April 4, says: The horror on the Dyke trail is growing in magnitude hourly. As the work of rescue proceeds it becomes more apparent that many more lives were lost than at first thought possible. It is now believed that between fifty and a hundred men and women were killed by the avalanche. Many bodies will never be recovered until the summer sun melts the tons of snow and ice that now bury them from sight.

Two or three thousand men are working in relays of as many as can stand, to clear the trail. The rescue work is being hampered by the weather, which is unpropitious for travel. The rescue work is being hampered by the weather, which is unpropitious for travel.

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DARING ARRESTS BY POLICE

Remarkable Cases of Defiance by
the Tough Elements—Fighting in
the Dark After Armed and
Desperate Men.

"You've got the wrong man, I guess," said a tall, well-built man in Lauterstein's pawnshop, ten years ago, to detective Martin Haley. Haley had got into the pawnshop, hunting for stolen articles. The stranger was in possession of some of that which answered the description of the stolen articles.

"We'll find out about that," replied Haley.

Detective Thornton stood in the doorway. Lauterstein's place was supposed to be a "den of thieves," and the detectives wanted no one to give them the slip. "Well, I think you have," the tall man replied. Haley saw him draw a revolver from his coat pocket. The man raised his arm and the weapon pointed at the detective's breast. Haley clutched the revolver. He could not force it aside.

One night two years ago Sergeant Corrigan and patrolmen Gerber and Walker pursued three men who had robbed several places in North Indiana. When at close quarters they opened fire on the police, and a bullet cut a hole through Corrigan's coat. The police responded with a volley, but the men escaped. Two were captured later in the night, however.

Sergeant Corrigan visited a saloon at Sullivan and Buchanan streets, in 1891, to gain, "toughs" will often seek quarrels with the police rather than avoid them. Harry Kokenmiller has more than once got out to kill policemen. It is less than a year since he was arrested by patrolmen Boylan and Gerber in West Washington street, armed with a forty-four caliber Colt's weapon. The patrolmen had a struggle with him, and he was successful against them until knocked insensible. Kokenmiller first fought the police in 1892. Patrolmen Warren and Foltzenglo, following a trail from the Empire bakery at McCarty and Chadwick streets, which had been robbed a few hours before, reached "Crip" Billy Jones' shanty boat, which was anchored in White river, near Morris street. The patrolmen went to the door to knock. As they did so Kokenmiller opened the door and shoved out a double-barreled shotgun. Foltzenglo seized it and turned it aside just as it was discharged, the double whizzing by himself and patrolman Warren and bursting with the powder flash the clothing of both. The patrolmen burst into the cabin and, after a struggle, arrested Kokenmiller and his gang.

Standing Under Fire.
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Capture of the Gleason Trio.
The man pulled the trigger as the barrel pointed at the detective's breast. The fact that he pulled the trigger at that moment saved Haley's life, as it drew the hammer back for the fatal stroke and Haley's finger, which was over the hammer, dropped in between the hammer and the cartridge. Then followed a struggle for the weapon, in which detective Thornton joined. The stranger fought hard, but he was overpowered. When it was all over he was arrested.

In 1891 Herman Wolf objected to Sergeant Kurtz trying to arrest him, who was a middle-aged man and shot at the sergeant. It was a close call for Kurtz. Wolf was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for the shot.

There is one survivor of the "old force" now in police uniform, who engaged in one of the most desperate battles ever fought between the police and criminals. In 1878 the police went out along White River to arrest a man named "Modoc," who had been charged with the murder of a man named "Modoc." The man named "Modoc" was a notorious criminal, and he was armed with a revolver. The police went out along White River to arrest him, and he was shot and killed.

Walking Into Danger.
Superintendent Quigley won his first stripes by undertaking a doubtful arrest in what was then called "Petersburg." This locality was just south of the city and was a hotbed of crime. Quigley attempted to arrest Charles Hart in July, 1883. A number of "toughs" attempted to resist, but Quigley was successful in his arrest.

Strange Doings.
The Indianapolis Democrat cheered the name of Fitz Lee without regard to other presidential possibilities, and the platform doesn't say a word about ratios.

Map Showing the Present Location of the Spanish Torpedo Flotilla.
[Pittsburg Leader.]

THE STAR STORE

OPEN UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK THIS
EVENING.

Neckwear—Vast array of newest
styles in Men's Neckwear, all
prices, special values at
50c.

Handkerchiefs—Bargains on the
bargain counter to-day. Ladies'
fine Swiss Handkerchiefs and
Men's fine Japaneese and Cam-
brie, hemstitched, sale
at \$1.25, \$1.00.

Boys' Clothing—Special values
for Easter in new spring styles
at \$1.25, \$1.00.

Men's Suits—A special bargain
in Men's Wool Cashmere
and Cheviot \$1 and \$1.50.

Boys' Hosiery—Heavy Corduroy,
ribbed, fast black, seamless, all
for 5 to 12, regular 12, on
sale at \$1.25, \$1.00.

Ladies' Fancy Hosiery—New
patterns in fancy stripes and
dots, on sale at 15c and 25c.

LACE CURTAIN SALE
A purchase of 2,000 pairs
go on sale Monday morning.

Entire accumulation of mill ends
and scraps of fabric, mostly
40 to 48 inches wide, new over-
all and 54 to 58 inches wide, new over-
all, on sale at, pair \$1.25.

10 styles at, pair \$1.00.

8 styles at, pair \$1.00.

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